

NOT AS OPEN

Interviewee: Bob McCormack (student from 1948-1955):

NVMA #201-84

Date Recorded: 6 August 2020

Interviewer name: Patricia Wejr

PW: Well, one thing we just thought we'd better add is just to talk about the lack of diversity in those days in Lynn Valley School.

BM: Well, I can speak to that. There was no 'people of colour' - any colour. There was the odd First Nations person - 'Indian', and that's what we used to say in those days, and that's no offense to anybody - and it was predominantly white. And the whole of our society was hinged around that, as we learn over time. I went to Sutherland School; basically the same. Many friends of mine now came from the Prairies, and they were white. And then I went to North Van High - and, lo and behold, I met Harry Jerome, Val Jerome, Paul Wynn. And they were black. And a few more First Nations. Because, again, as I said to you before, Lynn Valley was close. But in Lynn Valley, it was, and in many cases today still is, prominently white. And is that by design? I'm not going to comment on that, but I happen to believe that it is and was. So, I think that we are not as diverse and as open a society as we may think we are. And many of the people that govern us, whether it's local or even through the school system or whatever...I think that it should be recognized and maybe cultivated in terms of...why is that? And ask the question many times - "why is that?" So our leaders, including our teachers, principals and so forth, and our councillors, I believe, should be asking that question. Because, whether you believe me or not, it's true. And I can attest to that. I'm just saying it, and I don't mind saying it because it's true. And I think if you walk the streets, you'll see what I mean to be fact. Not fiction, not 'fake news'. It's fact. Not emotion. It's fact.